

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 08184 201855Z

64

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PM-03 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 /044 W
----- 117130

R 201440Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9368

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 8184

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, XO, PFOR, IN, US

SSBJ: US NAVY SHIP VISIT TO COCHIN

REFS: A. CTF SEVEN FIVE R 191005Z JUN 75

B. STATE 006666, 11 JAN 75

1. THE EMBASSY CANNOT APPROVE VISIT OF THE DE HAROLD E. HOLD (FF-1074) TO COCHIN, KERALA STATE FROM AUGUST 29 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2. THE ELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE IN KERALA IN EITHER SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER. THE INCUMBENT CHIEF MINISTER IS A COMMUNIST (CPI) IN A COALITION GOVERNMENT WHERE A NUMBER OF LEFTISTS PLAY PROMINENT ROLES. TO INTRUDE A US NAVY SHIP VISIT AT ELECTION TIME SEEMS TO US AN IMPOLITIC MOVE. MOREOVER, IT IS LIKELY TO BE THE SUPREME COURT DECISION ON MRS. GANDHI'S APPEAL OF THE ALLAHABAD CASE WILL BE HANDED DOWN WITHIN THE SAME TIME FRAME. THAT IT NOT A PERIOD WHEN WE WOULD WISH TO REMIND THE INDIANS OF OUR INTEREST IN DIEGO GARCIA OR THE INDIAN OCEAN. A US WARSHIP IN AN INDIAN PORT AT THAT TIME WOULD BE FAR TOO ATTRACTIVE A PROPAGANDA TARGET FOR SOME FACTION OF THE INDIAN POLITICAL SPECTRUM TO EXPLOIT. AND FINALLY, WE
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THINK IT UNLIKELY ANYWAY THAT THE GOI WOULD GRANT APPROVAL

FOR THIS VISIT EVEN IF WE SOUGHT IT. WE ARE AWARE THAT THE
BRITISH HAVE REQUESTED AND BEEN GRANTED PERMISSION FOR A BOMBAY
PORT VISIT BY ONE DESTROYER AND A FLEET OILER JULY 26-29. WE
BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT OUR POSITION IS "DIFFERENT",
MUCH AS WE WOULD PREFER THAT IT NOT BE.

2. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE PROSPECTS FOR A SHIP
VISIT TO INDIA, BUT BELIEVE A PROPOSAL SHOULD BE DEFERRED
UNTIL THE INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION HERE HAS NORMALIZED
AND THE US-INDIA JOINT COMMISSION HAS MET. AT SUCH TIME,
AND ASSUMING THERE HAS BEEN A FAVORABLE IMPROVEMENT IN
BILATERAL RELATIONS, WE THINK A SHIP VISIT ALONG THE LINES OF
THE PRESENT PROPOSAL WOULD BE VERY MUCH IN ORDER

3. WE NOTE THAT REF A DID NOT INCLUDE SECSTATE AS AN ADDRESSEE.

SCHNEIDER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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